

9 Fruits

There are smoothies, and then there are smoothies. And you'd be hard-pressed to find smoother concoctions than the smoothies that brothers Kyle and Kevin Banks are whipping up at their Cool Springs store.

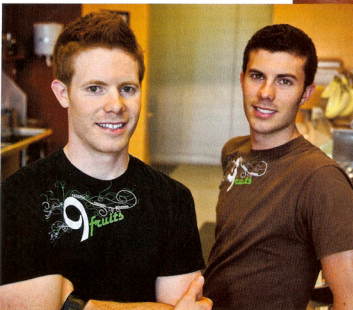
The Banks, who hail from the Sacramento, Calif. area, founded 9 Fruits in 2007, with the help and counsel of their parents. In fact, it was the brothers' mom who initially inspired their plunge into the smoothie business.

"Our mom was a health major in college and has always been passionate about being healthy herself and instilling that in others," explains Kevin. "She made fruit smoothies for us as kids. We would serve smoothies on silver platters to visiting friends and family. They would even joke that we should open our own smoothie place some day."

That joking has turned into reality at this cheerful and bright smoothie spot whose name is an allusion to a passage in Galatians.

"It's actually a reference to the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians," Kevin says. "It's a double meaning too, because we have nine smoothies on our menu. We sell fruit smoothies, but we also represent the Fruit of the Spirit. That's the foundation for how we run our business."

The nine smoothies on the menu range from the Passion Paradox, a blend of passion guava juice, strawberries and peaches, to the Peach Flamango, with mangos, peaches, orange juice, and the Berry Fusion, a delicious blend of mixed berries. All of the



Kyle and Kevin Banks (PHOTO BY ERIN MELISSA PHOTOGRAPHY)

ingredients are all-natural. And while each of the nine have their fans, a definite race is on for customer favorite.

"It's probably a tie between the Strawberry Blonde and the Choc Full of Peanut Butter," says Kyle. The Strawberry Blonde is a strawberry and banana blend while the Choc Full is a mix of chocolate, peanut butter and banana.

Whatever smoothie patrons choose, there's no doubt that Williamson Countians have taken to the Banks' concept.

"Williamson County has been an awesome place to start our business," Kevin says. "We definitely want to expand within Williamson County and hopefully beyond that."

One thing that won't change is the basic concept and menu at the core of 9 Fruits.

"We like to keep the menu simple, nothing that seems overwhelming," explains Kyle. "We try to do one thing and do it well." Mission accomplished.

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